

100,000 TAKEN AT ERZERUM BY RUSSIANS

It Is Estimated Also That More Than 1,000 Guns Were Captured in the Seizure of Great Turkish Stronghold in Armenia

TURKS CLAIM CZAR SPENT 5,000 LIVES

A Turkish Army Is Said to Be Fleeing to Westward Through a Difficult Mountain Region—Fighting on Western Front Has Decreased in Intensity

With the capture of Erzerum by the Russians, interest in the war operations shifted its center to Armenia, Persia and Mesopotamia, where the campaigns are expected to be notably influenced by the fall of the Turkish stronghold. The Turkish official statement declares that the Russians in the three days' fighting preceding the fall of Erzerum lost 5,000 dead.

Unofficial advices from Petrograd state that a Turkish army is fleeing westward from Erzerum through a difficult mountain region. The official newspaper Messenger of Petrograd estimates the Turkish garrison captured at Erzerum at least 100,000 men. It also estimated that more than 1,000 guns were taken.

An official announcement from Constantinople says the losses of one of the British expeditions in Mesopotamia, in a battle with the Turks near Batila, west of Korna, amounted to 2,000 officers and men.

The fighting on the western front has lessened in intensity probably because of the prevailing bad weather, and similar conditions exist in Russia.

RUSSIAN VICTORY DUE TO DUKE NICHOLAS

Deposed Head of Czar's Troops on Russia's Western Front Led His Soldiers into Great Stronghold of Erzerum.

London, Feb. 17.—Erzerum, Turkey's chief city in Armenia, is in the hands of the Russians. Heavy assaults by the Russians against the long line of detached forts protecting the city, lasting over a period of five days and described by Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian commander-in-chief, as "unprecedented," have resulted in the capture of the fortress. A Petrograd dispatch says Grand Duke Nicholas has telegraphed the emperor as follows:

"God has granted the brave troops of the army of the Caucasus such great help that Erzerum has been taken after five days of unprecedented assault. I am inexpressibly happy to announce this victory to your imperial majesty."

Unofficial reports early in the present month said the German field marshal, Von Der Goltz, with 80,000 men were besieged in the city with provisions for only a fortnight.

The capture of Erzerum is regarded as of great strategic importance. From it radiate roads leading in all directions. Over those to the southeast and south, it will be possible for the Russians now to fight their way toward their compatriots operating against the Russians and Turks in northwest and west Persia, or proceed south toward Bagdad, to the relief of the British bottled up in Kut-el-Amara, on the Tigris, southeast of Bagdad.

The immediate effect of the Russian victory on the situation in Persia and Mesopotamia is problematical, however, for despite the roads the country is mountainous and there is still much ground to be covered—something over 300 miles—before the Lake Urmiah district of Persia is reached, and over 600 miles before a junction with the British at Kut-el-Amara could be formed.

ITALIAN DEAD STREW BATTLEFIELD

In Front of the New Austrian Positions in Rombon District, According to Austrian Official Statement.

Vienna, via London, Feb. 17.—An Austrian official statement, dated yesterday, announces the eighth attack by Italian outposts on the Austro-Hungarian positions on Javereck was repulsed. The statement adds that the ground in front of the new Austrian positions in the Rombon district is covered with Italian dead.

Fight Postponed.

Chicago, Feb. 17.—Jess Willard and Tom Jones, his manager, decided yesterday that the proposed bout with Frank Moran of Pittsburgh must be postponed for at least two weeks from the date originally set, March 8. March 25 is the probable date.

RICKETY STRUCTURE KILLED 10 PEOPLE

Old Opera House in a Texas Town Collapsed and Then a Gas Explosion Set Fire to the Ruins.

Mexia, Tex., Feb. 17.—Ten persons were killed here last night in the collapse of the opera house building which was followed by a gas explosion and fire that for a time threatened the business section of the town. Numerous persons were injured.

Search continued late into the night for other bodies which it was feared might be buried in the ruins, although it was believed that all persons in the building had been accounted for. The opera house, which was old and seldom used, had been opened for an art exhibition for the public schools, which gave promise of being largely attended. The spectators had begun to assemble, when the structure gave way, burying them in debris and heavy timbers.

The confusion was intensified by a gas explosion which followed almost immediately. This caused fire in the wreckage. The flames spread to other buildings, including the Farmers' State bank, and so rapid was the progress of the fire that it seemed certain to consume the town. After four hours the fire was put under control.

CRONES ALLEGED TO BE IN BOSTON

Man Wanted in Connection with Soup Poisoning Case in Chicago Is Said to Have Been Seen.

Boston, Feb. 17.—The police are investigating the report that Jean Crones, wanted in Chicago in connection with the alleged poisoning of soup at a banquet to Archbishop Mundelein, has been seen in this city.

According to the report, a man, who said he formerly worked with Crones in Chicago, saw someone whom he claimed he recognized as Crones near the South station. When he spoke to him, the man told him to mind his business and hurried toward South Boston. Early today the police had found nothing to substantiate the report.

ASKS McCALL'S SUPPORT.

Bird Appeals for Roosevelt to Massachusetts Governor.

Boston, Feb. 17.—Charles Sumner Bird, who has been announced as a Roosevelt-placed candidate for delegate-at-large to the Republican national convention, addressed a long telegram to Governor McCall urging him to take no part in any movement counter to objects of the "liberal wing of the party."

Mr. Bird, who had been prominent as a Progressive until he turned to the support of McCall as the Republican candidate in the last state campaign, said:

"I understand now that the machine element of the Republican party seeks to induce you to join with them in a movement to send to Chicago a delegation hostile to Colonel Roosevelt's candidacy. I urge you not to do so."

Mr. Bird declared that Elihu Root had correctly stated the only issue in the coming national campaign—"The weakness of the Wilson foreign policy," and that Colonel Roosevelt was the only man sure of beating President Wilson on the issue.

ASK RUMANIA RESERVISTS IN SALONIKI TO RETURN

Consul There Requested Them to Go Back to Own Country, Says Hava Agency.

Paris, Feb. 17.—A Hava dispatch filed at Athens yesterday says the Rumanian consul at Saloniki has invited all reservists remaining in that city to return to Rumania immediately.

"NOT TO BE TRUSTED."

Brandeis Characterized by Moorfield Storey, Boston Attorney.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—Moorfield Storey, a Boston attorney, charged before the judiciary sub-committee of the Senate yesterday that Louis D. Brandeis, the president's nominee for the supreme court bench, helped to wreck the New York & New England railroad in 1902 and 1903, with the result that it was absorbed by the New Haven.

Asked as to Brandeis' reputation as a lawyer, Storey said: "I think his reputation in the Boston bar is that he is a very capable and very energetic man, and if necessary, to advance objects, he is not scrupulous as to methods nor is he to be trusted."

NORWICH CADET INJURED.

Exposure in Chemical Laboratory Injured Eyes.

Brattleboro, Feb. 17.—Merrill C. Haskell, son of W. E. Haskell of Brattleboro, was brought here yesterday afternoon from Norwich university with both eyes injured as the result of an explosion in the chemical laboratory. He was taken last evening to Springfield to a specialist. He was a graduate last year of the Brattleboro high school and entered Norwich last fall.

Matter of Opinion.

"Mary!" Father's voice rolled down the stairs and into the dim and silent parlor.

"Yes, papa, dear."

"Ask that young man if he has the time."

WEST EUROPE TORN BY STORM

Parts of France Seriously Damaged by a Terrific Gale

FLOODS DRIVE DUTCH FROM THEIR HOMES

Falling Chimneys Killed and Injured Many in Paris

Paris, Feb. 17.—A gale swept France yesterday which caused serious damage in Paris and the provinces. A number of shipwrecks were reported and channel service was delayed and at some points was entirely interrupted. Many telegraph wires and trees were blown down and several persons were killed or injured in Paris by falling chimneys.

Reports from the front describe the weather of the past 48 hours as the worst since the war began. The gale was particularly severe in the Belgian district, where houses were unroofed, trees uprooted, large areas flooded and many injured.

Amsterdam, via London, Feb. 17.—A northwesterly storm is blowing with undiminished violence and the situation is critical. Reports of damage are causing grave apprehension. Floods are driving people from their homes and the breaking of the dyke around the west end of Linder lake at Alenmeer, eight miles southwest of Amsterdam, seems inevitable.

11 COMMERCE RAIDERS.

Said to Be Getting Ready for Dash from Canary Islands.

Mobile, Ala., Feb. 17.—Eleven German steamers laid up in Canary island ports have been secretly armed for commerce raiding and are preparing to make a dash for the open sea, according to a statement made here yesterday by Captain F. E. Maguire of the American schooner Edgar W. Murdock, who says he delivered 2,100 tons of coal to German agents in Tenerife and saw it loaded into the bunkers of the interned German vessels. The Murdock is in port here.

Captain Maguire refused to give the names of the agents who chartered his schooner to transport the cargo of coal from Norfolk. The coal was consigned, he said, to a Spaniard employed by a German coal company in Santa Cruz, Tenerife. It was transferred to lighters and immediately taken alongside the German ships and loaded into bunkers.

The Murdock left Norfolk on Oct. 29 with 2,100 tons of coal on which the freight was prepaid. Near the northwest coast of Africa she was overhauled by a British man of war which searched the ship and allowed her to proceed. The same afternoon, Captain Maguire, the cruiser returned and required him to lay to, while the ship's papers were taken aboard the cruiser and examined. Several hours later an officer from the cruiser returned with the ship's papers and told Captain Maguire that he could continue his voyage.

"I had the freight prepaid and left Norfolk intending to deliver the coal to the man to whom it was consigned. That he was a Spaniard in the employ of a German coal company at Tenerife I did not know until I reached my destination."

"No time was lost in unloading my cargo on barges which were sent straight to the sides of the German vessels. The first ship in sight was the Cap Ortego, a big passenger liner of some five thousand tons. She looked like she had just come out of a ship yard, presenting a ship shape appearance, and I was told by shipping men that all the German steamships in Tenerife kept full crews aboard and appeared to be ready to sail any moment their masters desired."

TALK OF THE TOWN

Transportation of tank bark, the first in two seasons, began today from Orange and other hill towns where the recent fall of snow has given a new impetus to lumbering operations. A teamster who registered at the freight yard today with the first load assured a Times representative that a large quantity of tank bark remains to be shipped if the sledding continues.

News of the fall of Erzerum, the chief city of Turkish Armenia, is received with peculiar interest by people in the Barre Syrian colony, inasmuch as many residents of the community here are former residents of the district in which Erzerum is located, and it was to the captured city that most of the Barre Syrians turned for transportation instructions when about to start for America. Dispatches state that 80,000 Turks, who were forced back to Erzerum by the Russians last month, are locked up in the city with not more than two weeks' provisions on hand. For many centuries Erzerum has been a Turkish stronghold.

Harmon review, N. I. W. B. A. O. T. M., held a most enjoyable and profitable regular meeting last evening, when plans were discussed for a number of projects shortly to be undertaken by the review. Seven new members were initiated in the presence of 50 members. Arrangements were made for a sleigh ride to be held on the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 22, by members of the review and their guests will go to Plainfield for a chicken-pie supper. On the following evening there will be a public 500 party with tables for what for those who do not care to play the other game. Plans are also in the making for a bazaar to be held soon after Easter. After the business meeting, a pleasurable program was rendered as follows: Vocal solo, Miss Rose Levin; piano solo, Miss Gladys Ruth; vocal solo, Walter Tobin, accompanied by W. A. Wheaton. Dainty refreshments were served by the February circle under the direction of Mrs. Fannie Levin and Mrs. Annie Gerard.

CHELSEA GIRL HAD A NARROW ESCAPE

Miss Margaret Hall, Visiting in Melrose, Mass., Was Penned in By Flames and Was Thrown from Window by Firemen.

Melrose, Mass., Feb. 17.—Miss Margaret Hall of Chelsea, Vt., had a narrow escape from death by fire yesterday morning in the home of her relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Almer A. Hall, 11 Cliff street, Melrose Highlands, whom she is visiting.

About 2 o'clock Mrs. Hall was aroused from sleep and saw smoke pouring into the rooms, followed by sheets of flame. With her husband, she ran out of the house with their two children.

Mr. Hall went back into the house to get Miss Hall. The bedroom door was shut, and he kicked it open, and was driven back by the dense smoke. The flames had entered this room and the clothing on the bed had become ignited.

Some one sent in an alarm, and while Mr. Hall was making every effort to get into the bedroom, the firemen arrived on the scene. Chief Joseph Edwards sent a squad of men into the room where Miss Hall was in bed.

They got into the room none too soon, for it was filled with smoke and the bed was in flames. Opening a window of the room, which was on the first floor, the firemen carried Miss Hall to the window.

There happened to be more than two feet of snow piled up in front of the window, and the firemen, taking her by the arms, let her drop into the snow. She was unhurt by the drop, but her hands and face were slightly burned and she had swallowed considerable smoke.

She was cared for by a neighbor and clothes provided, for she was unable to save anything.

GUESTS KEEP ON EATING.

Although the Roof is Burning Over Their Heads.

Newport, R. I., Feb. 17.—The cupola of the Perry house and part of the upper floor of that hotel were on fire yesterday while on the street floor guests dined without excitement.

Spectators at a moving picture show in the opera house, adjoining the hotel, left the building in orderly fashion, and did not learn until they reached the street, the real cause of the sudden dismissal.

The flames caused considerable damage, estimated at about \$8,000, on the upper floor, but were prevented from extending below.

MANY INJURED IN TRAIN WRECK

Northbound Seaboard Air Line Special Was Wrecked at Bellwood Plantation, Va.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 17.—The Seaboard Air Line Special, northbound, was wrecked today at Bellwood Plantation between here and Chester. Early reports said that many people were injured but none was dead. Details of the wreck were not available.

FURNISHING LIQUOR CHARGED.

John Mosetti Arrested in Montpelier and Put Under \$300 Bail.

John Mosetti of Montpelier was arrested in that city this morning on a warrant charging him with furnishing liquor. The warrant was issued by Grand Juror Threlkeld. Mosetti was arrested in Montpelier city court before Acting Judge L. C. Moody and bail was fixed at \$300, which the respondent was unable to furnish and so went to jail.

Walter Burke was arrested this morning on a charge of committing a breach of the peace on Louis Gould. He was placed in jail. Louis Brunelle of East Montpelier, arrested yesterday for a first offense of intoxication, pleaded guilty and was fined \$5, with costs. William Lapan pleaded guilty before Judge Harvey yesterday afternoon to the charge of breach of the peace, and his case was continued for sentence.

WAS HELD AS SPY SUSPECT.

Winooski Young Man Had Thrilling Experience at Canadian Line.

Winooski, Feb. 17.—Emery DeForge of upper East Allen street, who was detained at Granby, P. Q., Sunday by the chief of police suspected of being a German spy, has been released upon investigation. A telegram came to his father, Henry DeForge, Sunday night stating that he had been detained there. What change he had in his possession was taken away from him but after investigation it was given back to him. He was on his way to Waterloo, P. Q., to spend Sunday. After he had paid the lawyer he was left without any money. Henry DeForge works for the Porter Screen company and is about 23 years old.

Rutland's Labor Unrest.

Every person in Rutland and vicinity will earnestly hope that the various rumors about as 14 industrial disturbances will come to naught. The industries in this section of Vermont have not suffered from the country-wide business depression of the past two or three years and to the extent that manufacturing plants generally have in other sections. Neither have they benefitted to the extraordinary extent that a comparatively few enterprises have under the unnatural stimulation of war orders. The making of munitions and other things required in Europe's maelstrom of blood has been mushroom-like in scattered sections, which will feel severely the reaction when the war demands are over. It is hoped and expected that the Rutland institutions will continue in a healthy growth. There is, therefore, the most sincere wish that the wisest counsel will prevail among our people interested either as employers or employees, to the end that our manufacturing activities will not receive any setback. The whole community is hurt when an industry is hurt—Rutland News.

AGREEMENT ACCEPTABLE ON LUSITANIA

But Secretary of State Lansing Asks from Germany Assurances That It Will Not Carry Out Policy of Sinking Merchant Ships Carrying Defensive Armament

GERMANY UNWILLING TO AGREE TO IMMUNITY

The Question of What Constitutes Defensive Armament May Be Considered Later, According to Suggestion of United States Government

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—Secretary of State Lansing today accepted the Lusitania agreement as acceptable to the United States in so far as it relates to that case but asked Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, for assurances that Germany will not carry out its policy of sinking merchant ships without warning to the liners even if they carry defensive armament, the question of what constitutes defensive armament to be determined later in a way not yet agreed upon.

It was suggested that the United States may propose that guns mounted on the stern of ships and capable of being swung from 15 to 30 degrees in either direction might come within that class.

It was stated authoritatively that Germany, because of its unusual position, cannot and will not accept the suggestion of the United States as it now stands, that liners carrying guns shall be immune from attack under previous assurances.

Count von Bernstorff told Secretary Lansing yesterday it was his personal opinion that in the new submarine campaign his government intended to abide by its promise not to sink unresisting liners without warning, given in the Arabian case and referred to in the Lusitania agreement. Mr. Lansing informed the ambassador that such a declaration from his government would be highly desirable.

The ambassador suggested the possibility of postponing the effective date of the new submarine campaign if it would give time for negotiations to clarify the confused situation but the secretary did not commit himself.

This is the situation now: As a result of the correspondence in the Lusitania and Arabian cases the United States had rested secure in the belief that the future conduct of submarine warfare on humane lines and in accordance with the established principles of international law, modified somewhat by the new conditions developed during the war, had been assured. The state department had been proceeding lately on the theory that all that was necessary to be done in the Lusitania case was to cover the past; not the future.

Now the Austro-German notion of intention to sink armed merchantmen apparently is regarded as having destroyed that assurance, and it is deemed useless to try to adjust a past issue while the future is left open with the almost certain assurance of new incidents arising that may lead to the most serious results.

The international political situation in Germany is regarded here as making the situation grave, because the von Tirpitz element is understood to be reasserting itself with considerable effect and the subject requires delicate handling because an upset of the von Bethmann-Hollweg administration would be regarded as unfavorable in its effect.

What form the next step in the negotiations will be is not disclosed, but there are strong indications that the German government will be asked to assure the United States that merchant ships armed for defensive purposes only will be exempted from unwarlike attack.

From German sources came the statement that it was quite probable Berlin would give such assurances, but that in doing so it would request information as to what the United States considers defensive armament. Extended negotiations may follow on that point.

State department officials said they considered the situation where it was several weeks ago, when it was described as grave. Diplomatic correspondence will continue with Austria as well as with Germany. Austria has given assurances in the Ancona case, which this government has no intention of relinquishing.

The United States will, of course, continue its efforts to induce the entente allies to disarm their merchantmen and in the event of their refusing the state department probably will further limit the character of armament which it considers defensive. In that event armament above the set limit would cause ships having it aboard to be considered warships and treated accordingly in American ports.

A. K. OF C. CORPORATION.

Bennington Council Formed Into a Home Association.

Bennington council, No. 207, Knights of Columbus of Bennington, has become associated as a corporation under the name of the Bennington Knights of Columbus Home Association. There is no capital stock and there are 14 subscribers.

MUST USE CHECK-LIST ON REFERENDUM VOTES

Attorney General Barber Also States That Same Qualifications for Voters on Those Two Issues Shall Apply as in the Annual Town Meetings.

Secretary of State Guy W. Bailey, who was in Barre to-day on official business as an insurance commissioner, stated in response to an inquiry that he had received an opinion from Attorney General H. G. Barber in which the latter declared the law contemplates the use of a checklist in the referendum vote on the state-wide prohibition law and on the direct primary law and that the same qualification for voters on those two propositions shall apply as in annual town meeting. Incidentally, it may be stated that those who failed to pay their taxes prior to Feb. 15 are not eligible to vote on those two referendums.

Attorney General Barber rendered the opinion on request from Secretary of State Bailey, and in the course of it he asserted that "for the purpose of voting under two acts above referred to the law contemplates the use of a checklist. No. 111 of the acts of 1915 defines who are qualified to vote in annual town meetings and clearly provides that 'a male citizen 21 years of age, who has taken the freeman's oath and whose list including a poll is taken in a town at the annual assessment preceding a town meeting, and whose tax or taxes due such town were paid prior to the 15th day of February preceding such town meeting.'"

"If one has omitted to pay his taxes in accordance with the provisions of this act he would not be a legal voter in such meeting, and therefore would not have a right to vote upon either of the two acts above referred to."

This opinion by Attorney General Barber will serve to clarify a situation which was considerably in doubt throughout the state.

LARGE INSPECTION ATTENDANCE.

There Were 73 Knights Templar of St. Aldemar Commandery.

Grand commanders of Burlington and Mount Zion commanderies, and nine past commanders of the local commandery were participants in the annual inspection of St. Aldemar commandery, No. 11, Knights Templar, in the Masonic asylum last evening. Apart from the inspecting officers and their assistants, 73 knights affiliated with St. Aldemar commandery were in line during the evening. Ruth chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, and a large number of the substantial 6 o'clock dinner, which was served by a committee of the ladies. Nearly eighty knights were entertained during the dinner hour and it was nearing 8 o'clock before the inspection began.

Edward L. Bates of Bennington, eminent grand commander of Vermont, was assisted in the inspection by George F. Root of Newport, inspector general, and William H. Herriek of Montpelier, the grand junior warden. Regrets were expressed over the inability of Dr. E. B. Whitaker of Barre, grand generalissimo, to be present. Following the exercises of inspection, Grand Commander Bates congratulated the St. Aldemar knights on their excellent showing and spoke interestingly on certain phases of the ceremonial. Other speakers were Inspector General Root and Rev. W. J. M. Beattie.

SEEK PASTOR'S RETURN.

Hedding Methodist Society Votes Unanimously for It.

State conference delegates from the Hedding Methodist church received instructions at the fourth quarterly conference last evening to request the return of the present pastor, Rev. E. F. Newell, for another year. A motion to file these instructions with the delegation that will represent the Barre church at the Vermont conference next April was adopted unanimously at one of the most largely attended quarterly conferences in some time. Rev. Ralph E. Lowe of St. Johnsbury, district superintendent, presided and favorable action on the retention of Rev. Mr. Newell came in the course of an evening's business which included reports from every department of the church.

Most encouraging reports were received from the superintendent of the Sunday school, C. S. Andrews, and the president of the ladies' and pastor's union, Mrs. E. C. Glysson. Much has been accomplished also in other lines of endeavor, as was indicated by reports from Mr. Adelbert I. Skinner, who spoke on the achievements of the junior league, and Glenn Carpenter, who reported for the Epworth league. Another important phase of church work was described in an interesting report by Emory Newhall, who is at the head of the Methodist boy scouts. For the trustees of the church, E. R. Davis reported, and the treasurer of the trustees, W. H. Conner supplemented his own report to that of E. M. Lyon, the church treasurer.

NEW DIVORCE ENTRIES.

A Large Number Have Been Entered in Washington County Court.

There have been a large number of divorce cases entered in the county clerk's office for trial at the March term of Washington county court, recent entries being as follows: Vernon E. Blyaw vs. Avis Douglas Blyaw, Wishart for the petitioner; Mae Fifeild vs. Luther L. Fifeild, Laird for the petitioner; Louise M. Stacey vs. Oscar Stacey, Jackson for the petitioner; Oscar Johnson vs. George R. Johnson, Carver for the petitioner; Margaret E. Reed vs. Bert A. Reed, Theriault & Hunt for the petitioner; Philomena Marville vs. Joseph Marville, Davis; Inez S. Pinney vs. Robert S. Pinney, Laird; Katherine A. Jackson vs. William H. Jackson, Carver; Mildred Lamb vs. Lester Lamb, Theriault & Hunt; Mary C. Greene vs. Fred S. Greene, Carver; May Emerson vs. Fred C. Emerson, Marshall.

Clerks' Notice.

There will be a regular meeting of local 241, E. C. I. P. A., in Worthen hall, Friday, the 18th, at 7 p. m. Clerks are requested to be on time on account of a caucus night. Don't forget register. Per Rec. Sec.

Being Urged To Run For Alderman.

Friends of Henry Alexander are urging him to run for alderman in the sixth ward and they state that Mr. Alexander is considering the matter.

THREE POINTS TO BE TAKEN UP

At Investigation of Cream and Milk Transportation in New England

CHAIRMAN McCHORD OUTLINE LANS

Vermont State Range Represented at Hearing in Boston

Boston, Feb. 17.—An investigation into the methods of transportation and rates on milk and cream in New England was begun to-day by Chairman McChord of the interstate commerce commission. Chairman McChord explained that three mail questions will be considered, methods of milk and cream transportation, the rates from the dairies to the large cities and whether a higher rate should be charged for cream than for milk.

All the railroads of New England, the state granges of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, several state public service commissions and many wholesale milk dealers are represented at the hearing.

321 VISITED SCHOOLS.

Invitation to "Parents' Day" Brought Out Encouraging Attendance.

In order to encourage school visiting by parents, Supt. White of the Barre public schools decided to set aside one day for "parents' day" in all the eight buildings of the city. That day was yesterday. During the forenoon and afternoon a total of 321 parents visited the schools and witnessed the work being done by the pupils. Almost all the visitors were women. The teachers in the various rooms laid no special plans for the day but went through the daily routine of the school work in order to give the visitors as accurate an idea as possible of what is being done. The parents showed considerable interest in the work, and Supt. White and the teachers were much encouraged at the large attendance.

The Mathewson school building, the largest in the city, was visited by the largest number of people, while the high school had the smallest number. The attendance by buildings was as follows: Mathewson, 77; Brook street, 58; Lincoln, 67; North Barre, 45; Ayers street, 30; wright five, 24; Summer street, 21; Spaulding, 9.

CLAIMS HE HAS ALIBI.

Herbert Smith Arrested for Alleged Assault at Graniteville.

Sought by the authorities of Barre Town and the state since last fall, Herbert Smith, formerly employed as a quarryman on Millstone hill, was arrested yesterday by Deputy Sheriff Dennis Donahue on a warrant issued at the request of State's Attorney F. E. Gleason, it being alleged that the man figured in an assault on one Alex Sartwell, a son-in-law of James K. Pirie, the well known quarryman. When arraigned before Magistrate H. W. Scott in city court last night Smith entered a formal plea of not guilty to a charge of assaulting with intent to rob and was remanded to a cell at police headquarters in default of \$1,000 bail.

The state's attorney was unable to come to Barre to-day and at his request Grand Juror William Wishart interviewed the prisoner. Smith reiterated his purpose to have a hearing and rejected any suggestion that he waive examination, inasmuch as the case is beyond the jurisdiction of a local magistrate for final action. A hearing, then, has been set for Friday morning at 9 o'clock. Smith is without counsel and intimates that he has an alibi which will effectively disprove the allegations of the state.

Smith's arrest is the outgrowth of a suspicion which arose early in November, 1915, when Sartwell, while on his way home from Barre one night, was attacked by a man who had asked for a ride. Smith is said to have disappeared from Graniteville at the time of the alleged attempted assault. According to the story related to the authorities by Sartwell, he had been passing a few hours in the city and was on his way home to Graniteville when a man asked him for a ride. He complied with the stranger's request and just as the team was passing through a stretch of woods on the quarry road, Sartwell is alleged to have said, the stranger turned on him, by clutching his throat. The pair engaged in a desperate hand-to-hand encounter with the result that both rolled out of the carriage into the highway. There the stranger, thinking he had worsted the driver, started to go through his pockets. Sartwell reported that he recovered his senses and renewed the counter-attack on the stranger, beat him off long enough to regain a seat in the carriage, and then drove home. That night he reported the affair to the authorities. Barre Town officers commiserated with the state's attorney and for several days a still hunt was conducted for signs of the alleged assailant.

Smith is quoted as saying that he left for New Hampshire before the alleged assault took place. Latterly he has been employed in the talc mines near Waterbury, he says. The respondent is around 26 years old, unmarried, and is fairly well known in Graniteville, where he has been employed at divers times as a quarry hand. It is said that Sartwell, when confronted by Smith, was unable positively to identify him as the stranger who asked him for a ride.